

Amendments to the Claims:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.173, please cancel claim 65. Please amend claims 5, 50, 55, 56, 59, 60, 61, 63, 64, and 66, and please add claims 71-78, as follows:

5. (seven times amended) A cover and wastewater combination comprising:
wastewater that includes sewage and/or industrial waste;
at least two sealed panels positioned over the wastewater, each panel having a side
characterized by an edge and a plurality of openings spaced apart from the edge;
and
the openings in one of the panels being positioned above the openings in the other panel,
and a fastener being disposed through at least two adjacent openings.
50. (amended) A cover and wastewater combination comprising:
wastewater that includes sewage and/or industrial waste; and
at least two sealed panels removably linked to each other, the panels being positioned
over and in direct contact with the wastewater;
where each panel contains, but is not completely filled with, an insulation material.
55. (amended) A cover and wastewater combination comprising:
wastewater that includes sewage and/or industrial waste;
at least two sealed panels removably linked together in overlapping relationship over the
wastewater; and
means for removably linking the panels in overlapping relationship, the means
comprising fasteners and openings defined in each of the panels;

where the openings in one of the panels are positioned above the openings in another of the panels to form pairs of openings of different panels, and one of the fasteners is disposed through each pair of overlapping openings so as to removably link the overlapping panels.

56. (amended) A cover comprising:
a plurality of panels removably linked together, each panel comprising high density polyethylene material; and
insulation material sealed inside each panel;
where the insulation material inside each panel does not completely fill the panel.

59. (amended) The cover of claim 56, where each panel includes multiple openings, the panels overlap, and the panels are removably linked together with fasteners.

60. (amended) A cover comprising:
a plurality of panels configured for use over wastewater, the panels being removably linked together with fasteners disposed through overlapping openings of adjacent panel portions;
where each panel includes insulation material sealed inside, but not completely filling, a void in the panel.

61. (amended) The cover of claim 60, where each panel comprises geomembrane.

63. (amended) A method of manipulating a cover comprising:
linking at least two panels such that the panels are adjacent to each other, where each
panel includes insulation material that is sealed inside, but that does not
completely fill, a void in the panel; and
disposing the panels over wastewater that includes sewage and/or industrial waste.
64. (amended) The method of claim 63, where each panel comprises geomembrane.
66. (amended) The method of claim 63, where the insulation material is rectangular.
71. A method of covering wastewater, comprising:
disposing at least two panels over wastewater that includes sewage and/or industrial
waste, where the at least two panels are linked to each other and each contains, but
is not completely filled with, insulation material.
72. The method of claim 71, where each panel comprises geomembrane.
73. The method of claim 72, where, for each panel, the insulation material is sealed inside the
geomembrane.
74. The method of claim 71, where the insulation material is rectangular.

75. The method of claim 71, where each panel comprises openings, and the linking includes placing a fastener through at least one pair of adjacent openings.

76. The method of claim 75, where the openings in each panel are adjacent to at least one edge of one side of the panel.

77. The method of claim 75, where the linking includes orienting the panels in an overlapping relationship.

78. The method of claim 77, further comprising:
anchoring the linked panels over the wastewater.